

From: ["Washburn, Ben" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN,BEN>](mailto:Washburn.Ben@EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN,BEN)
To:
CC:
Date: 5/20/2013 3:12:05 PM
Subject: CORRECTED: OPA Daily Digest 5/20/13

OPA Daily Digest for 5/20/13

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.) – Letter – 4/23/13: Constituent concerns about selling/purchasing land that is designated as part of a Superfund site in Jefferson and St. Francois counties. Due: 5/18/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

None

Environmental Stories:

KDSK Ch. 5 St. Louis - Bridgeton residents prepare for even smellier landfill - 5/20/13 - Work is set to begin Monday on the Bridgeton landfill and that means that the voluntary move for many in the area has already started. <http://www.ksdk.com/news/article/381219/3/Bridgeton-residents-prepare-for-even-smellier-landfill>

MDNR (Release) - Department of Natural Resources and Department of Health and Senior Services to post Bridgeton Landfill air monitoring data and analyses daily beginning Monday - 5/18/13 - On Monday, May 20, Republic Services will begin increased construction activities on six reinforced concrete pipes, or RCPs, at the Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill. During this time the Missouri Department of Natural Resources will increase air sampling. <http://content.govdelivery.com/bulletins/gd/MODNR-7b9127>

St. Louis Public Radio - Odors Expected To Worsen During Bridgeton Landfill Construction - 5/20/13 - More work is scheduled to begin on Monday at the Bridgeton Landfill. Crews will be removing six large underground concrete pipes that are no longer in use and have become unstable. <http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/odors-expected-worsen-during-bridgeton-landfill-construction-0>

KMOX Radio St. Louis - Weather Postpones Drilling at Burning Bridgeton Landfill - 5/20/13 - Drilling at the Bridgeton Landfill will not begin as scheduled today because of the rain. <http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2013/05/20/bridgeton-residents-prepare-for-work-on-burning-landfill/>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Rain postpones work at Bridgeton Landfill - 5/20/13 - A project at Bridgeton Landfill that was supposed to intensify odors was postponed a day because of rain and the potential for strong storms this afternoon. http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/rain-postpones-work-at-bridgeton-landfill/article_b437d165-cbd3-5f51-bf35-f79a7463846f.html

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, Iowa) - Pick out lawn equipment that pollutes less - 5/19/13 - The sounds of spring are most definitely here. Not only is there the noise pollution to contend with, but there also is the air, land and water pollution that comes with gas powered lawn equipment. <http://tinyurl.com/LawnChoices519>

Beatrice Daily Sun - Beatrice students turning lots into native prairie - 5/19/13 - The field is largely dirt with patches of grass, but a group of Beatrice Middle School students is aiming to change that. Sixth-grade students in Pan Henning and Pam Wallinger's Ecology classes started prepping the seeds during winter for what is planned to be a lush prairie. http://beatricedailysun.com/news/local/middle-school-students-plant-a-prairie/article_000737c0-4db5-5153-a42a-ffe7f5b84c53.html

St. Louis Post Dispatch - MSD stormwater fee gets supreme legal test - 5/19/13 - Luckily for Cox, the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District spent \$1 million to rebuild the creek bank and stabilize it with tons of rock to prevent further erosion. http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/msd-stormwater-fee-gets-supreme-legal-test/article_984f3539-1601-508a-a726-9d4c9bf9ade4.html

The Chronicle (Pella, Iowa) - RUS funding and EPA regulations were the focus of discussions with congressional staff in the nation's capital - 5/17/13 - Pella Cooperative Electric CEO John Smith and Board member Sam Nichols, along with about 30 other representatives from Iowa's rural electric cooperatives, have returned from Washington, D.C. They discussed energy and environmental issues with staff members from Congressmen Loeb sack and Braley and Senators Grassley and Harkin. <http://pellachronicle.com/local/x508503987/RUS-funding-and-EPA-regulations-were-the-focus-of-discussions-with-congressional-staff-in-the-nation-s-capital>

Salina Journal - Plans beginning to gel for north Salina - 5/18/13 - At a recent North Salina Community Development meeting, there were strong signs that the latest attempt to revitalize an area that was identified as blighted in the 1960s has strong political support. <http://www.salina.com/news/North-Salina-plan>

Daily Gate City (Keokuk, Iowa) - Some rivers high in nitrates this spring - 5/16/13 - Although a flooding Mississippi River is rarely if ever appreciated, cities that depend on Old Muddy for drinking water are actually benefitting from its size. http://www.dailygate.com/news/article_fd2d93bc-be46-11e2-b2d6-001a4bcf887a.html

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Limit on lead contamination suits clears Missouri Legislature - 5/16/13 - A bill giving special legal protection to the Doe Run Co. is on Gov. Jay Nixon's desk after passing the Missouri Legislature late Wednesday night. http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/virginia-young/limit-on-lead-contamination-suits-clears-missouri-legislature/article_5d701667-311e-52d2-8483-4525d3817298.html

Waterloo Cedar Falls Courier (Iowa) - EPA to give Chamberlain site update - EPA to give Chamberlain site update - 5/20/13 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will host a public meeting May 29 to provide updates on the environmental cleanup at the former Chamberlain Manufacturing plant. http://wcfcourier.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/epa-to-give-chamberlain-site-update/article_1abc1e98-c023-11e2-bf29-001a4bcf887a.html

Iowa CCI Action Fund (blog) - Iowa Legislature Appropriates \$700,000 To DNR To Hire 7 New Factory Farm Field Inspectors - 5/19/13 - Citizen complaint to the U.S. EPA led to a reversal of a downward funding trend, but CCI members say twice as many inspectors are needed out in the field to inspect all 8,000 factory farms and begin issuing Clean Water Act permits to polluters. <http://cciaction.org/in-the-news/farming-environment/iowa-legislature-appropriates-700000-to-dnr-to-hire-7-new-factory-farm-field-inspectors/>

Iowa Corn - Ill-Timed Criticism of Voluntary Farmer-Led Conservation Practices Counterproductive - 5/17/13 - Criticism of the inadequacies of voluntary, farmer-led soil and water conservation practices and the performance of a state nutrient reduction strategy not yet funded or implemented that accompanied its activation were ill-timed. http://www.iowacorn.org/index.cfm/30323/24060/illtimed_criticism_of_voluntary_farmerled_conservation_practices_nutrient_reduction_strategy_counterproductive

Iowa Public Radio - Wind Energy in Iowa (audio) - 5/17/13 - Host Ben Kieffer gets details on Mid-American Energy's \$1.9 billion project, and he gets a broader look at wind energy in Iowa with both large- and small-scale turbines. <http://news.iowapublicradio.org/post/wind-energy-iowa-0>

RT USA - 'Environmental genocide': Native Americans quit talks over Keystone XL pipeline - 5/19/13 - Leaders from 11 Native American tribes stormed out of a meeting with US federal officials in Rapid City, South Dakota, to protest the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, which they say will lead to 'environmental genocide.' <http://rt.com/usa/native-americans-keystone-pipeline-475/>

Omaha World-Herald - Midlands Voices: Obama's attacks on press troubling - 5/20/13 - I write this not just to support journalism in America but more so to support our Constitution, which the Obama administration has disregarded and dismantled often. Thomas Jefferson was right, and this administration is proving it: You can't have liberty without a free press. <http://www.neprepzone.com/article/20130520/NEWS0802/705209991>

The Hill - Opinion: The irony of energy - 05/20/13 - Just three years ago, Republican members of the Senate split with President Obama and his party over federal energy policy. On the left, Democrats pushed for a move to solar and wind power, while right-wing lawmakers backed a commitment to adding 100 nuclear power plants over the next 30 years. <http://thehill.com/opinion/columnists/judd-gregg/300623-opinion-the-irony-of-energy>

NRDC Switchboard - Missouri's 2013 Legislative Session Ends, the Renewable Energy Standard Stays Intact - 5/20/13 - As Missouri's legislative session was coming to an end on Friday, supporters of the Renewable Energy Standard (RES) waited with bated breath to see if any last minute amendments would sneak through and potentially repeal or weaken the Standard. http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/knarita/missouris_2013_legislative_ses.html

Radio Iowa - EPA says it gave out too much information on livestock producers - 5/17/13 - The EPA admits it gave personal information on 80,000 livestock producers to environmental activist groups. Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley is preparing legislation to restrict the EPA's ability to release such data. Iowa Cattlemen's president Ed Greiman, of Garner, says the measure is badly needed to protect producers' privacy and rights. <http://www.radioiowa.com/2013/05/17/epa-says-it-gave-out-too-much-information-on-livestock-producers/>

Spencer Daily Reporter - Area river pollution 'a clarion call' for action, environmental group warns - 5/18/13 - Record nitrate levels have been found in both the Raccoon River, which begins in northern Buena Vista County, and the Des Moines River, which flows through the Fort Dodge area. The findings represent "a clarion call" for tackling nutrient pollution in Iowa, the Environmental Law & Policy Center said in a reaction statement this week. <http://www.spencerdailyreporter.com/story/1970311.html>

Wall Street Pit - Is Nuclear Winter Coming to the Senate this Summer? - 5/20/13 - It seems the Senate could have a really hot summer. Majority leader Harry Reid (D-NV) has reportedly threatened to "go nuclear" this July—meaning that Senate Democrats would move by majority vote to ban filibusters of executive and judicial branch nominees. <http://wallstreetpit.com/99970-is-nuclear-winter-coming-to-the-senate-this-summer/>

New York Times - Wells Dry, Fertile Plains Turn to Dust - 5/19/13 - The land, known as Section 35, sits atop the High Plains Aquifer. The aquifer's northern reaches still hold enough water in many places to last hundreds of years. But as one heads south, it is increasingly tapped out, drained by ever more intensive farming and, lately, by drought. <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/20/us/high-plains-aquifer-dwindles-hurting-farmers.html>

Earth Island Journal - Remember When the IRS Targeted Environmental Organizations? - 5/16/13 - This isn't the first time the agency has investigated political groups – just the first time it's become a full-blown controversy. http://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/elist/eListRead/remember_when_the_irs_targeted_environmental_organizations/

Inside Climate - Exxon: No Plans Yet To Reopen Ruptured Pipeline, and No Answers Why - 5/20/13 - The company has yet to release results of a sophisticated test of the 65-year-old pipeline's interior, conducted in February. <http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20130520/exxon-no-plans-yet-reopen-ruptured-pipeline-and-no-answers-why>

New York Times - Editor: Climate Warnings, Growing Louder - 5/19/13 - Mr. Obama has a firm grasp of the climate issue, and no one doubts that he cares about it. But as is often the case with this president, the question is whether he will exhibit a sense of urgency to match his intellectual understanding. <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/19/opinion/sunday/climate-warnings-growing-louder.html>

Reuters - Column: Solar power costs closing in on wind - 5/16/13 - Solar panels were cheaper than wind turbines for the first time last year in certain markets, per unit of capacity, and are rapidly closing a remaining gap in the full cost of power generation. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/05/16/column-wynn-wind-solar-idUSL6N0DV3M120130516>

E&E Daily - Lawmakers to enter raging battle over nutrient trading - 5/20/13 - Senate Environment and Public Works Committee lawmakers this week will wade into a fierce battle being waged among farmers, environmentalists, homebuilders and sewage plant operators over a cap-and-trade plan for water pollution. <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1059981420/feed>

Domestic Fuel - Free Fuel Workshops in Iowa - 5/20/13 - The Iowa Renewable Fuels Association (IRFA) will be hosting a summer workshop series addressing upcoming changes in the fuels shipped to Iowa via the current pipeline system. <http://domesticfuel.com/2013/05/20/free-fuel-workshops-in-iowa/>

Greenwire - Audit uncovers many legal violations in GSA bonus system - 3/17/13 - The General Services Administration violated "many" legal requirements when doling out almost \$160,000 in bonuses over three years, according to a new report from the agency's inspector general. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059981388/feed>

NPR - Scientists Agree On Climate Change, Why Doesn't The Public? - 3/17/13 - A new study confirms that the vast majority of scientists who research the climate accept that the planet is warming and human beings are largely responsible. Yet a large slice of the American public believes that scientists are deeply split about global warming. <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=184845126&ft=1&f=1025>

Brownfield Ag News - Luetkemeyer wants HSUS IRS investigation investigated - 5/17/13 - Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer's (R, MO) in March, 2010, sent a "constituent-driven" request to then IRS Commissioner Douglas Shulman questioning the tax exempt status of HSUS based on what Luetkemeyer called "HSUS's significant lobbying activity as a tax exempt group." <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2013/05/17/luetkemeyer-wants-hsus-irs-investigation-investigated/>

Brownfield Ag News - Unmanned aircraft could be a good thing in agriculture - 5/17/13 - A number of states have introduced legislation and three have passed bills prohibiting the use of unmanned aircraft in their states. But there are proponents who say unmanned aircraft could be used for all sorts of good including agriculture. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2013/05/17/unmanned-aircraft-could-be-a-good-thing-in-agriculture/>

Co.EXIST - A New Kind Of Agriculture Replaces Intuition With Precision - 5/20/13 - Precision farming--using sensors, automatic sprayers, and even drones and satellites--are letting farmers manage each plant in their fields perfectly, leading to farms that are much less resource intensive. <http://www.fastcoexist.com/1682029/a-new-kind-of-agriculture-replaces-intuition-with-precision>

The Atlantic Wire - The EPA Could Lose Its Power to Fight Climate Change Before Using It - 5/17/13 - Advocates of forceful action on climate change have long held a trump card. The primary source of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. is coal plants, and — since the Supreme Court has determined that those emissions are a pollutant — the EPA is mandated to regulate them. <http://www.theatlanticwire.com/global/2013/05/epa-could-lose-its-power-fight-climate-change-using-it/65354/>

E&E News - Water, Superfund cuts at issue in T&I panel's budget hearing - 5/20/13 - Cuts to state revolving funds for clean water infrastructure and to cleanups of hazardous toxic sites will be on tap Wednesday when a House panel examines U.S. EPA's proposed fiscal 2014 budget. <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1059981431/feed>

The Hill (blog) - EPA to publish draft low-sulfur gas rule - 5/20/13 - A proposed rule intended cut pollution from automobiles is to be published Tuesday in the Federal Register, nearly two months after the Environmental Protection Agency detailed the draft regulations. <http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energyenvironment/300687-epa-to-publish-draft-low-sulfur-gas-rule>

BNA - States Oppose Requiring Matching Funds For Particulate Matter Monitoring Grants - 5/20/13 - States are opposing an Environmental Protection Agency move to require state or local matching funds for fine particulate matter monitors. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=31222601&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d8v0x1g5&split=0

BNA - Ninth Circuit Affirms Agency's Legality In Deregulation of Herbicide-Resistant Alfalfa - 5/20/13 - An appeals panel affirms the legality of APHIS' deregulation of genetically modified alfalfa crop, which environmental groups had challenged under several statutes. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=31222613&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d8v1g0m3&split=0

BNA - Senate Bill Would Require EPA to Reduce Advanced Biofuel Blending Requirements - 5/20/13 - The bill would ensure that only domestically produced fuels satisfy the renewable fuel standard, the sponsors said. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=31222599&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d8v0v2r0&split=0

BNB - Democrats, Witnesses Fault Draft Bill As Ploy to Delay EPA Coal Ash Regulation - 5/20/13 - Democrats and witnesses condemn draft legislation as an overt attempt by Republicans to stop ongoing litigation that would force EPA to set a firm schedule for final coal ash regulations. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=31222606&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d8v1a8q3&split=0

BNB - Tax Credits, Loans, Labeling Program Said to Help Renewable Chemical Industry - 5/20/13 - Tax credits, government guaranteed loans, and renewable-content labeling efforts are among the federal policies that senior executives of renewable chemical manufacturing companies identified as encouraging development of those compounds. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=31222620&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d8v1p3k2&split=0

Inside EPA - EPA Eyes Air Violation Reporting Changes Due To States' Resource Limits - 5/20/13 - EPA is considering changes to its requirements for states to report Clean Air Act violations to the agency that states say has led to major expansion of reporting mandates amid dwindling resources. <http://insideepa.com/201305202434916/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-eyes-air-violation-reporting-changes-due-to-states-resource-limits/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Senate Majority Opposes CWA Guide, Creating Hurdle For EPA Guide - 5/20/13 - A proposed legislative amendment to bar EPA from finalizing its controversial guidance on the reach of the Clean Water Act (CWA) won majority support in the Senate, including from eight Democrats, though it failed to reach the 60-vote threshold necessary for passage. <http://insideepa.com/201305202434915/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/despite-majority-support-measure-in-corps-bill-to-bar-cwa-guide-fails/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Fearing EPA Inaction, Utilities Push To Advance CWA 'Conflict' Policy Bill - 5/17/13 - State and national water utility groups are renewing advocacy efforts to get a hearing on a bill that would force EPA to soften its conflict-of-interest policies that govern who is eligible to oversee state Clean Water Act (CWA) permits. <http://insideepa.com/Water-Policy-Report/Water-Policy-Report-05/20/2013/fearing-epa-inaction-utilities-push-to-advance-cwa-conflict-policy-bill/menu-id-127.html>

Inside EPA - House Bill Seeks To Increase Levels, Means Of Infrastructure Funding - 5/17/13 - A bipartisan group of House lawmakers has introduced legislation upping authorized funding levels for EPA's wastewater infrastructure funding programs and creating new financing mechanisms. <http://insideepa.com/Water-Policy-Report/Water-Policy-Report-05/20/2013/house-bill-seeks-to-increase-levels-means-of-infrastructure-funding/menu-id-127.html>

Inside EPA - Obama Requires Agencies To Revise Rules To Speed Infrastructure Permits - 5/17/13 - President Obama is ordering an interagency task force he created last year to craft measures for "modernizing" environmental review and permitting requirements for water, transportation, energy and other infrastructure projects to significantly curb "aggregate" approval times. <http://insideepa.com/Water-Policy-Report/Water-Policy-Report-05/20/2013/obama-requires-agencies-to-revise-rules-to-speed-infrastructure-permits/menu-id-127.html>

Inside EPA - GAO Pushes Agencies To Address Climate Change Infrastructure Impacts - 5/17/13 - The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is urging EPA and other agencies to better address the impacts of climate change on infrastructure. <http://insideepa.com/Water-Policy-Report/Water-Policy-Report-05/20/2013/gao-pushes-agencies-to-address-climate-change-infrastructure-impacts/menu-id-127.html>

Inside EPA - House, Senate Poised For Conference Fight On Farm Bill Energy Spending - 5/17/13 - House and Senate lawmakers appear poised for a legislative conference fight to resolve competing approaches in the two chambers' Farm Bills for spending on energy programs. <http://cleanenergyreport.com/201305172434857/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/house-senate-poised-for-conference-fight-on-farm-bill-energy-spending/menu-id-202.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

***5/20-23/13** – Southeast Missouri Trip, Poplar Bluff/Kennett/Chesterfield. Contacts: Kris Lancaster, 7557, and Josh Svaty, 7202

5/28-29/13 – Four-State Directors Meeting, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

5/30/13 – Tour Westar Facilities, Lawrence, Kansas. Contact: Mark Smith, 7876

6/4/13 – Omaha Lead Superfund Site (Celebratory Event – 1st Phase of NPL Delisting), Omaha, Nebraska. Contact: Debbie Kring, 7725

***6/5/13** – Brownfields Press Event, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Debbie Kring, 7725

6/18/13 – Design Workshop, Joplin, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

***6/18/13** – Meet with City of Springfield Officials, Springfield, Mo. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

***6/19/13** – Joint MDNR/EPA Lead Tour, Springfield, Mo. Contact: Gene Gunn, 7776

6/20/13 – Interagency Environmental Leadership Council, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Ron Hammerschmidt, 7566

6/20/13 – Congressional Briefing – Bannister Federal Complex, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Ron Hammerschmidt, 7566

DRA:

***5/21/13** – Ice Cream Social, Regional Office. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

5/28-29/13 - Four State Directors Meeting, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

SA:

***5/20-23/13** – Southeast Missouri Trip, Poplar Bluff/Kennett/Chesterfield. Contacts: Kris Lancaster, 7557, and Josh Svaty, 7202

5/28-29/13 - Four State Directors Meeting, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

5/21/2013- Attending a meeting with Argentine and Turners Leaders about the School Flag program and Railroad Diesel, Argentine, Kan. Contact: Amy Algoe-Eakin, 7942

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

None

SUPR

None

WWPD

5/22/13 - Wet Weather Partnership Conference – Integrated Planning Panelist, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

6/3-7/13 - Wetlands Delineation Course instructor, Cedar Falls, Iowa. Contact: Jason Daniels, 7443

6/5-6/13 – EPA and Ground Water Protection Council Aquifer Exemption Policy Meeting, Denver, Colo. Contact: Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413

6/11-13/13 - National Wetlands Meeting, New York, N.Y. Contact: Brad Horchem, 7137